

March 24, 2008; Agenda Item No. 15

Resolution No. 08-29

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF PROPOSITION 84 FUNDS, AND ENTERING INTO ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, TO ACQUIRE CALTRANS DIRECTOR'S DEED NOS. DD48060-01-01, DD48067-01-01, DD48068-01-01 AND DD1505-02-01, LOCATED AT THE 101 FREEWAY AND VALLEY CIRCLE INTERCHANGE, WOODLAND HILLS

WHEREAS, Caltrans Director's Deed Nos. DD48060-01-01, DD48067-01-01, DD48068-01-01 and DD1505-02-01 located at the 101 Freeway and Valley Circle interchange, Woodland Hills provides a unique opportunity to provide urban green space, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge, and a site to clean storm water runoff; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) is authorized to award grants to government agencies pursuant to Sections 33204(c) and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and grants for protection and restoration of land and water resources in the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River and the Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds; and

WHEREAS, The Conservancy desires to pay Caltrans to acquire Director's Deed Nos. DD48060-01-01, DD48067-01-01, DD48068-01-01 and DD1505-02-01 using funds from Proposition 84, Section 75050 (g) (2) of the Public Resources Code in the amount not to exceed \$140,100; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(a) of the Public Resources Code, "Acquisition" means the acquisition of a fee interest or any other interest in real property including easements, leases and development rights; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(f) of the Public Resources Code, "Development" includes, but is not limited to the physical improvement of real property including the construction of facilities or structures.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(g) of the Public Resources Code, "Disadvantaged community" means a community with a median household income less than 80% of the

statewide average. "Severely disadvantaged community" means a community with a median household income less than 60% of the statewide average; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(i) of the Public Resources Code, "Interpretation" includes, but is not limited to, a visitor serving amenity that educates and communicates the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources in a way that increases the understanding and enjoyment of these resources and that may utilize the expertise of a naturalist or other specialist skilled at educational interpretation; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(l) of the Public Resources Code, "Preservation" means rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(m) of the Public Resources Code, "Protection" means those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property or natural resources or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural resources and includes acquisition, development, restoration, preservation and interpretation; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(n) of the Public Resources Code, "Restoration" means the improvement of physical structures or facilities and, in the case of natural systems and landscape features includes, but is not limited to, projects for the control of erosion, the control and elimination of exotic species, prescribed burning, fuel hazard reduction, fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources, road elimination, and other plant and wildlife habitat improvement to increase the natural system value of the property. Restoration projects shall include the planning, monitoring and reporting necessary to ensure successful implementation of the project objectives; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003 (c) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to protect the rivers, lakes and streams of the state from pollution, loss of water quality, and destruction of fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003 (d) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to protect the beaches, bays and coastal waters of the state for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003 (e) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to revitalize our communities and

making them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks and urban greening; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003.5 of the Public Resources Code states that the growth in population of the state and the impacts of climate change pose significant challenges. These challenges must be addressed through careful planning and through improvements in land use and water management that both reduce contributions to global warming and improvements include better integration of water supply, water quality, flood control and ecosystem protection, as well greater water use efficiency and conservation to reduce energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, the *Rim of the Valley Corridor Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives to implement the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan, ensure that Conservancy land acquisition expertise is made available where needed, link and integrate new natural parks into existing park system, and link key habitat areas strategically to protect species and ecosystems through acquisition and cooperation with other resource management agencies; and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is being taken subject to approval of the grant for compliance with the General Obligation Bond Law; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project protects land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 84, Chapter 7, Section 75060 (g)(2); and

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has entered into a joint powers agreement with the Conejo and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park Districts pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* to create the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA); and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); Now

*Therefore Be It Resolved*, That the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hereby:

1. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
2. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.
3. FINDS that the proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 84.
4. FINDS that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
5. ADOPTS all of the preceding whereas clauses.
6. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated March 24, 2008.
7. AUTHORIZES entering into all necessary inter-agency agreements to complete said acquisition.
8. AUTHORIZES entering into agreements with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to collect and expend funding for said acquisition.
9. AUTHORIZES a grant or interagency transfer of Proposition 84 funds to Caltrans or its designee with the State of California in an amount not to exceed \$140,100.00 to acquire Director's Deed Nos. DD48060-01-01, DD48067-01-01, DD48068-01-01 and DD1505-02-01 located in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed.
10. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Chairperson to execute the grant agreement or inter-agency agreement and to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such authority shall include those provisions that he shall determine in the exclusive exercise of his discretion are necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution and to comply with the policies of the Conservancy, and to otherwise carry out the provisions of state law and regulations.
11. AUTHORIZES the Executive Director to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution.

Agenda Item 15  
March 24, 2008  
Page 5

*~ End of Resolution ~*

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008 at Beverly Hills, California.

Dated:

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Executive Director